

Subject: road improvements-Unalakleet

From: nvuh2o@netscape.net

Date: Tue, 20 Dec 2005 18:05:35 -0500

To: DOT_STIP@dot.state.ak.us, donna_gardino@dot.state.ak.us



Dear Department of Transportation:

My name is Henry Oyoumick, a retired high school math/science teacher, and a resident of Unalakleet. I have lived here most of my prime years and have a responsibility to seek support for our way of life. Since you are an agency for State affairs and securing a safety method relating to transportation, I am seeking your assistance with a project that could improve our way of life.

The Community Road Improvements and Extension project for Unalakleet was on the STIP list for 04-06 and now, as I understood it, it has been cancelled in the 06-08 proposed STIP. Unalakleet is located on a sand spit and has been an excellent and a natural spot for a central pivotal point and an airport. Initially, the natural sands pit where Unalakleet sits was lengthy and naturally flat for an airport and this has given our State an advantage to build the airstrip with minimal costs. The airport has been supportive of sub-regional activities because of the accessibility to nearby communities. Additionally, the sedimentary components, from which the airstrip and the roads within Unalakleet are made, suggest a less need for funding to maintain federal and state standards. Other communities may need more funding because of permafrost or other geological obstructions. Thus, the airstrip in Unalakleet has always given our decision-makers an image of low priorities for extensive funding or status quo for improvements.

Yet, in perspective of what the project could have done, the public road could still benefit if a paved street running through the community of Unalakleet was built. The rationale for a paved system would not only help its residents because of increased vehicular traffic, but we continue to see an increase in traffic relating to commercial fisheries and a sub-regional support system. This causes more dust to stir exposing the dust particles to the air. This dust settles on our fish/meat that is drying near the road system. This food source is needed for survival and supplement to our diets. Your support is important to re-aligning State DOT's priorities and making sure that the monies allocated in previous "promises" are revived.

If there is a need for photographs to support my plea, I would be happy to send some.

Thank you for taking my comments.

Henry Oyoumick
Watershed Coordinator for the Native Village of Unalakleet

Henry

Henry

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